

STATEMENT OF FAITH

We trust the reality that God is love (1 John 4:8). Love is other-centered, not self-seeking. The full representation of the love of God came in human flesh through the person of Jesus Christ, who created all things in the universe by the word of His mouth, lived a life of service to humanity and saved us from our sins, our rebellion, our own desire to live without Him. By His death and resurrection we have assurance of a future without pain, hurt and selfishness.

We also trust the ancient scriptures hold the evidence for the story of this passionate God, how He intended the world to be, what happened to get the world in the mess that it is in and if this mess is ever going to end.

Throughout these studies from the books of the bible we will see enough evidence that can give us assurance God loves us deeply, has won the hearts of most of the universe, except for this little planet, but His light is shining on the heart of humanity brighter and brighter each day. As restored followers of Christ, we will also show outwardly how to live a life of other-centered love, helping others in physical, material, emotional and spiritual need.

INTRO

The Samaritan woman, the paralytic from the pool of Bethesda (or Betezata), and the Pharisees had different encounters with the Lord Jesus.* The Samaritan woman did not feel embarrassed to talk to a man who knew everything about her life, however wrong it was, and the lame could walk and was freed after thirty-eight years once accepting Jesus' invitation, "Do you want to be healed?". Unfortunately, the most devout group of believers of the time challenged Jesus who said to the paralytic that could carry his bed after being fully healed on Sabbath.

1) THE SAMARITAN WOMAN

John 4:1-42

In verse 10, Jesus tells the woman that he can offer the water of life.

In Greek, the word meant running water, from a fountain. The woman was confused and did not understand the spirituality of expression until Jesus revealed Himself as the Messiah.

In verse 42, the Samaritans were the ones declaring that Jesus is the Messiah and Savior of the world. The Jews who supposedly had the scriptures, the prophets, never said that about Jesus.

2) THE HEALING OF THE PARALYTIC

John 5:1-18

Probably part of verse 3 and verse 4 were not part of the original writings of John, but it was a belief of the time. If that were true, God would be very cruel in only healing those who got to the water first, wouldn't he? That meant this man would NEVER be healed.

3) DEBATE WITH PHARISEES

John 5:16-47

v. 17 says that the Father works on the Sabbath together with Him. Both work for the good of humanity. The work to benefit us human beings was the work that challenged the Pharisees Sabbath after Sabbath.

v.39 shows that the Pharisees tried to get eternal life from reading Scripture, but they wouldn't put it into practice or even understanding it fully. The scriptures bear witness in favor of Christ, and He's the one that brings eternal life, but the Pharisees never accepted that.

notes:

* The Samaritans were considered an inferior race by the Jews and they did not speak to each other. Jewish men would never speak to Samaritan women. Jesus broke all these taboos by carrying a conversation with this woman.